

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application. This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 27, 2008. Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-36 are rejected. Claims 1, 12 and 25 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, 25, 26 and 29-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi, (U.S Patent No.: 5,510,957, hereinafter "Takagi"). The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 9, 11, 13-20, 22, 24, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugita, et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,931,649, hereinafter "Sugita") in view of Kan-o (U.S. Patent No.: 6,910,217, hereinafter "Kan-o"), claims 5, 8 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi, in view of Selby, et al., (U.S Patent No.: 5,793,728, hereinafter "Selby"), claims 10, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi, in view of Sugita, claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi and Kan-o, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Selby, and claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi and Kan-o, as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Sugita.

Applicant's Response to Examiner's Response to Arguments

The Examiner submits that the features upon which application relies are not recited in the rejected claims and that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an advantage of the arrangement is that parts of the optical drive bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or eliminate misalignment) are not recited in the rejected claims. Applicants disagree. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the claims to advance prosecution. Applicants submit claims 1, 11 and 25 now clearly recite features not taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claims 1-11

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 1: "wherein the functional bezel and the cosmetic bezel are attached to form an integrated optical drive bezel, the integrated optical drive bezel configured to be coupled to an optical drive after the functional bezel and the cosmetic bezel are attached to form the integrated optical drive."

Takagi is directed to an electronic device in which a control unit is detachable from an equipment body. The Examiner submits that part 12 of Takagi is equivalent to the functional bezel of the presently claimed invention

and part 13 is equivalent to the cosmetic bezel of the presently claimed invention. In Takagi, the alleged functional bezel (part 12) is integrated with the equipment body and the alleged cosmetic bezel (part 13) is releasably detachable from the functional bezel (part 12). Thus, in Tagaki, the cosmetic bezel (part 13) and the functional bezel (part 12) are not attached to form an integrated optical drive bezel that is coupled to an optical drive.

In contrast, claim 1 requires that the cosmetic bezel be attached with the functional bezel to form an integrated optical drive bezel that is coupled to an optical drive. As explained in the present specification at paragraph [0014], one advantage of such an arrangement is that the parts of the optical drive bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or even eliminate misalignment.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Claims 2-11 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1.

Claims 12-24

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 12: "an optical drive bezel having a functional bezel rigidly attached to a cosmetic bezel, wherein a slot is provided in the optical drive bezel assembly to allow an optical

disk to pass therethrough and wherein the slot remains open when a disk is in the optical drive, wherein the optical drive bezel assembly is coupled to the optical disk drive after the functional bezel is rigidly attached to the cosmetic bezel."

As explained above with reference to claim 1, in Takagi, the alleged functional bezel (part 12) is integrated with the equipment body and the alleged cosmetic bezel (part 13) is releasably detachable from the functional bezel (part 12). Thus, in Tagaki, the optical drive assembly does not include an optical drive bezel assembly as claimed.

In contrast, claim 12 requires an optical drive bezel assembly that includes a functional bezel and a cosmetic bezel that are rigidly coupled together, the optical drive bezel assembly being coupled to the optical disk drive. As explained in the present specification at paragraph [0014], one advantage of such an arrangement is that the parts of the optical drive bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or even eliminate misalignment.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 12. Claims 13-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 12.

Claims 25-36

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, as claimed in claim 25: “wherein the cosmetic bezel is rigidly coupled to the functional bezel to form an integrated bezel assembly, the integrated bezel assembly coupled to the optical drive and the enclosure after the cosmetic bezel is rigidly coupled to the functional bezel to form the integrated bezel assembly.”

As explained above with reference to claim 1, in Takagi, the alleged functional bezel (part 12) is integrated with the equipment body and the alleged cosmetic bezel (part 13) is releasably detachable from the functional bezel (part 12). Thus, in Tagaki, the cosmetic bezel (part 13) and functional bezel (part 12) do not form an integrated bezel assembly that is coupled to the optical drive and the enclosure.

In contrast, claim 25 requires that the cosmetic bezel and the functional bezel form an integrated bezel assembly that is coupled to the optical drive and the enclosure. As explained in the present specification at paragraph [0014], one advantage of such an arrangement is that the parts of the optical drive bezel assembly are integrated as one unit before being attached to the optical disk drive to minimize or even eliminate misalignment.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 25. Claims 26-36 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 25.

No motivation to modify cited art to arrive at the presently claimed inventions

Moreover, Applicants submit one of skill in the art would not modify Takagi to arrive at the presently claimed inventions. In Takagi, the control unit 13 is temporarily retained by a temporary retaining member so that it does not fall off the equipment body onto the ground or floor, while the nose portion 12 of the equipment body remains on the front of the equipment body 10. The locking and temporary retaining mechanisms 20 and 17 are mounted on an inner surface of the nose portion 12. Thus, the nose portion 12 and control unit 13 do not form a separate, integrated bezel that can be coupled to the equipment body 10. One of skill in the art would not modify Takagi to arrive at the presently claimed invention because Takagi's goal is to allow the user to remove the control unit 13 from the nose portion 12 to avoid theft of the equipment body 10 (and its integrated nose portion 12). Takagi also fails to identify problems associated with alignment of an optical disk drive, a cosmetic bezel and a functional bezel.

As previously discussed, Applicants have identified a problem associated with alignment of an optical disk drive, a cosmetic bezel and a functional bezel

and have solved that problem by attached the cosmetic bezel and functional bezel to form an integrated bezel assembly that can be coupled to the optical drive.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 12 and 25. Claims 2-11, 13-24 and 26-36 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the foregoing independent claims. Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103.

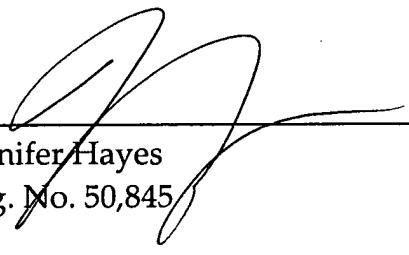
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Jennifer Hayes at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP

Date: _____

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